



Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter



New York's 28th District

June 2004



Dear Friends,

As the 108th Congress draws to a close, I would like to update you on my activities in Congress. Please take a few minutes to read about what is happening in the 28th Congressional District.

I am honored to serve you in Congress and hope you will contact my office for assistance with the federal government.

Sincerely,

*Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress*

Working to Protect Jobs and Manufacturing in Western New York

In March, Rep. Slaughter and Rep. Jack Quinn organized a major forum in West Seneca for local manufacturers. They invited Western New York business leaders to discuss how the federal government can assist local manufacturers in remaining competitive. In the last three years, 2.6 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared from the American economy, including thousands from Western New York.

In Congress, Rep. Slaughter is fighting to protect the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a nationwide network of centers that provide information and assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers. MEP has been very successful, creating or retaining over 35,000

jobs. But the Administration has proposed cuts to funding for the program by 60 percent—from \$106.6 million to \$39 million—threatening as many as 40 MEP centers across the country, including High Tech Rochester and the Western New York Technology Development Center, Inc., in Buffalo.

Rep. Slaughter wrote a letter to President Bush asking that the funding for this vital program be restored. She opposes trade bills that could ship more jobs overseas and will continue to work in Congress to protect jobs and make sure that Western New York's manufacturers will remain competitive.



Reps. Slaughter and Quinn listen to local manufacturers discuss ways the federal government can help protect jobs in Western New York.

Fighting Unemployment in Western New York

In April, the U.S. Department of Labor reported that among the largest cities in the U.S., Buffalo and Rochester had the greatest increases in

unemployment in 2003. Rep. Slaughter has released reports showing that thousands of unemployed workers in Rochester and Buffalo have exhausted their unemployment benefits without finding work. These workers are trying desperately to find work in an economy where millions of jobs have disappeared. Without unemployment benefits, they now have no way to support themselves or their families.

In Congress, Rep. Slaughter is fighting to help unemployed workers while finding ways to put our economy back on track.

She strongly supports extending federal unemployment benefits, a program that workers have already funded. Unfortunately, the leadership in Congress has blocked this extension. Rep. Slaughter supports a bipartisan bill that would provide tax cuts to American manufacturers while ending European Union sanctions that are hurting our employers. She also supports legislation to extend job training and health care to service workers whose jobs have been outsourced overseas.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Sign up today for Rep. Slaughter's electronic newsletter, LouiseLine, to stay updated on her activities in Congress and in the 28th Congressional District. Visit www.louise.house.gov for more information.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Rep. Slaughter and her staff are always available to help answer your questions about federal programs, benefits or legislation. For example, the office can provide information on the new Medicare law and prescription drug discount cards. Please contact her nearest office if you would like assistance.



Rep. Slaughter leads a hearing of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on sexual assault in the military.

Putting an End to Sexual Assault in the U.S. Military

Rep. Slaughter, co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, led a hearing in March to investigate the issue of sexual assault and rape in the U.S. military. A panel that included advocates, a representative from the Pentagon and a survivor of sexual assault testified before the Caucus about this horrendous problem and what needs to be done to stop it.

Jennifer Machmer, an Army captain and native of South Buffalo, described to Members of Congress the abuse that she suffered while serving in Iraq and Kuwait. According to estimates, there have been well over 100 sexual assaults among troops in the current theater of operations in the Middle East. In most cases, victims have been afraid to report these crimes within the military, fearing negative repercussions for their careers or retaliation by the perpetrators.

In May, the U.S. House unanimously passed an amendment championed by Rep. Slaughter that would require the Pentagon to develop comprehensive policies to prevent and respond to sexual assaults. In addition, Rep. Slaughter is working to develop comprehensive legislation to make more changes so our military women are better protected.

Fighting Against Colorectal Cancer



Rep. Slaughter recently authored the bipartisan Eliminate Colorectal Cancer Act of 2004. The bill will require health insurance companies to cover preventive screening for colorectal cancer for all men and

women over the age of 50, and for people under the age of 50 at high risk for the disease. Colorectal cancer is the only preventable form of cancer, and early screening could save tens of thousands of lives.

Securing \$3 Million for Niagara Falls Amtrak Station

Rep. Slaughter visited Niagara Falls in April to announce \$3 million for the new Niagara Falls Intermodal Transportation Center & International Railway Station.

For years, Niagara Falls officials have been trying to move the train station from its location on the edge of town to a more accessible site. The new facility will be located much more centrally, making it more accessible for business, tourists and local citizens.

The federal grant, which was included in a highway and transit bill, would fund the final design of the station, including the construction of a Customs and Immigration inspection facility that will be part of the main terminal. The transportation bill would fund thousands of transportation projects and create jobs. It has passed both the House and Senate, but the Administration has been reluctant to support it.



SUPPORTING THE TROOPS IN IRAQ

Rep. Slaughter salutes the brave men and women who continue to serve our nation in Iraq and around the world. She continues to speak out in favor of better equipment and housing for the troops, and has introduced legislation to ensure that children who change residences because of a parent's deployment may continue to attend their schools.

She recently submitted a statement to the *Congressional Record* honoring the soldiers from the 28th Congressional District who have lost their lives in Iraq. Constituents can find the statement on her web site.

As always, the families of deployed soldiers are encouraged to contact her office for information and support.

Rep. Slaughter announces \$3 million in federal funding for the new Niagara Falls Amtrak Station with Niagara Falls Mayor Vince Anello, Niagara Falls Senior Planner Tom DeSantis, Amtrak representative Howard Noll and Niagara Falls City Councilman James Stewart.

Rebuilding Downtown Rochester & the Inner Loop

Rep. Slaughter is working with local officials in Rochester to revitalize Center City and reconnect downtown with local neighborhoods. She recently secured \$2.4 million to reconstruct the southeast part of the Inner Loop highway, which will allow

a portion of the highway to be raised and realigned so that streets cut off by the road will be reconnected. The new design will make the areas more pedestrian friendly, open up property now unusable and make neighborhoods more attractive for new business.



Rep. Slaughter has secured \$2.4 million in federal funding to restructure Rochester’s Inner Loop. The project will reconnect neighborhoods and promote economic development in and around downtown Rochester.



Rep. Slaughter joins traditional Polish dancers at the Broadway Market, where she met with market officials and announced \$140,000 in federal funding.

Promoting Buffalo’s Broadway Market

Rep. Slaughter is committed to restoring and reviving the historic Broadway Market on Buffalo’s East Side. In April, she delivered \$140,000 in federal funding to the market for renovations and repairs. Restoring the market will help attract both vendors and customers to the market and the surrounding area, spurring economic development.

In May, Rep. Slaughter

brought Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, a powerful member of the House Appropriations Committee, to the Broadway Market to discuss how the federal government can better support public markets and economic development on the East Side. They convened a roundtable of state and local leaders to discuss ways to build the Market to its full potential.

Leading the Fight to Protect the Quality of Our News

In March, Rep. Slaughter brought Jonathan Adelstein, a commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission, to Rochester for a major forum that she hosted on the consolidation of media. Hundreds of local citizens came to discuss their concerns about the huge corporations that have come to control a vast number of the nation’s newspapers and radio and television stations—stifling the diversity of issues and opinions covered by American media.

In recent years, the government has loosened federal

regulations governing media ownership to allow large conglomerates to own more outlets than ever before. In Rochester and Buffalo, almost two dozen radio stations are controlled by just three large corporations—none of which are based in Western New York.

Rep. Slaughter has opposed these changes because they threaten the amount and quality of the news and information available to us. She will continue to fight against these dangerous plans, which jeopardize the free exchange of ideas on which American democracy is based.



Rep. Slaughter hosted FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein at a recent town hall meeting in Rochester to discuss federal regulation of media ownership.



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Improving Roads in the City of Tonawanda

Rep. Slaughter secured \$600,000 in a House transportation bill to reconstruct the Niagara Street Bridge over Two Mile Creek in the City of Tonawanda. The culvert/bridge, which is over 70 years old, has sustained damage in recent years from heavy use, and the New York State Department of Transportation has

recommended total replacement of the bridge.

Niagara Street is a major transportation link from I-190 and I-290 and serves as a truck and tour bus route. In addition, the bridge connects the Riverwalk and the Veterans' Park bike path, which are used by thousands of pedestrians and bicyclists each year.



Rep. Slaughter joins City of Tonawanda Mayor Jack Gallagher to announce \$600,000 in federal funding for the reconstruction of the Niagara Street bridge and culvert. The new bridge will make travel easier for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians alike.



Rep. Slaughter was honored by Rochester Mayor William Johnson and Rochester City Council President Lois Giess for the over \$25 million in federal funding she has secured for the Port of Rochester.

The Fast Ferry Has Arrived in Rochester!

The City of Rochester recently honored Rep. Slaughter for the over \$25 million in federal funding that she has secured for the Port of Rochester in recent years. The new fast ferry, which arrived in Rochester with much fanfare at the end of April, is the latest and greatest development at the port. The Spirit of Ontario will travel daily between Rochester and Toronto, helping to revitalize the economy in and around Rochester.